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amended

circular bottom pattern tool and said circular top pattern tool, in a radially inward direction [and against a root point defined by the circular bottom pattern tool and the flange-shaped portion], thereby sequentially thickening a rear side of said flange-shaped portion; and forming the thickened flange-shaped portion into a cylindrical shape which is concentric with the base plate, thereby forming the thickened annular peripheral wall.

REMARKS

In his Advisory Action, the examiner states that the "root point presents new issues...."

To remove the "new issues", claim 5 has been further amended to remove the reference to "root point".


While this distinction is no longer in claim 5, it is nevertheless significant and should be considered in evaluating claim 5 against the art of record. Nor is this feature new to this application, for as was noted in the last Response this feature "is clearly visible in the drawings."

Regarding the examiner's assertion that this feature is "disclosed by Yamanaka", consider pages 8-13 of the specification which describe the formation of the flange-shaped thickened portion 13, i.e., it is gradually thickened while the stepped portion 14 is held between the upper and lower tools 33 and 34. It is this "holding" that produces the "root point." Neither Yamanaka nor Dais show such a "holding" to produce a thickened flange. Figs. 2 and 3 of Yamanaka do not show bending, nor do Figs. 4 and 5. In the latter the material is squeezed, while in the former it is

expanded due to an axial load. This is not the same as in the present invention. With a squeezing or axial load, bending does not occur, therefore, there can be no root point.

The examiner is urged to reconsider his position and allow claim 5.

Respectfully submitted,

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